

QUICK GOALS ENDED TOWN HOPES

AFTER CHANCE OF EQUALISER

Forwards Lacked Thrust In Their Finishing

By Chiltern

Concluding conclusions could be reached about the Town's match with Birmingham at St. Andrew's on Saturday. On the one hand, it was a meeting from which they could quite easily have taken a point.

On the other hand, Birmingham might well have piled more goals to give their goal average a much-needed boost in their promotion struggle with Cardiff City.

To save the game came through the second half Birmingham defence over to the left and came across quickly to look likely to score the for Birmingham's lead to only one goal at go, but his shot went wide west, with Merrick badly

After that, came the mass team assault that brought goals in a minute and the tenseness which felt all through this

Merrick Just Saved Cullen's Great Shot

BIRMINGHAM were over- anxious from the start and could well have been in on the opening minutes the Town, settling down played some neat, clever that, however, lacked

Of the few dangerous shots produced by far the best came from then making his debut in

It was a powerful drive from penalty area edge that would be found a billet under the bar for the quickness of Eng- goalkeeper, Merrick, in

Directness Won The Day In The End

HERE was more craft in the Town's attack than in Birm- and the City relied on weight and speed, and, directness won the it was a long time be- they could break down the stubborn defence, 10 minutes they held the securely, thanks to two of acrobatic saves by Streten

when he gained the ball in a tussle with Owen, paved the way for the City's first goal.

Briggs made goalwards, seeking an opening for a shot. He was stopped, but in the scramble, the ball went to Purdon who hooked it into the corner of the net, with Streten completely unaided.

Strain Continued Until Closing Stages

WHEN the second half began, Birmingham looked as if they would quickly get the goals that would assure them of this most vital victory.

But they did not come, and the Town got back into the game with the same neat midfield foot- ball that fizzled out into nothing when the penalty area was reached.

Not until 14 minutes from the end was the strain under which Birmingham were playing eased and then Stewart scored from a few yards out after Smith had headed the ball down from Purdon's corner.

Another Goal Almost Immediately

PLAY was scarcely on again before the ball was in the Town's net once more. From the re-start, Stobbs lost the ball in midfield and it was moved quickly into the Town half of the field.

Aherne had a chance to clear, but the ball went between his legs and Briggs was left with a clear route for goal and he banged the ball safely into the corner of the net, giving Streten no possible chance.

That seemed to be the finish of the scoring, but in the last minute there was an unfortunate happening for Birmingham, who had been much concerned to keep a blank sheet.



Bernard Streten

Own-Goal Consolation Point For Town

CULLEN began a movement and switched the ball quickly over to Mitchell, who banged the ball at goal. For once in a way, Merrick fumbled and the ball spun away from him.

Dashine across at top speed came Warhurst who, in his attempt to clear, kicked the ball into his own net.

That gave the score more respectability, but there could have been other goals for the Town had the forwards shown more punch and mounted their raids more quickly.

Success of the line was Cullen, who took his chance avidly and showed that he is a natural foot- baller.

Occasion Did Not Affect Cullen

THE occasion did not seem to trouble him in the slightest, for he was cool in all he did and always made splendid use of the ball.

He showed, too, that he has an eye for an opening and the Town will be bearing in mind for future reference this bright display by a promising youngster who is not yet 21.

This season, the Town have "blooded" several of the younger element and the success achieved must be the so far of a good deal of encouragement to the club.

Boyd Was The City's Mainspring

THERE was quite a good under- standing between Cullen and Stobbs and the latter worked the ball neatly at times in mid- field, but was apt to be caught in possession.

McJarrow did not settle down as he did in the previous match, though he was opposed to one of the outstanding players of the match, Boyd.

The right-half was Birming- ham's mainspring, for he began attack after attack and was continually running into the open space for a return pass.

McJarrow should have been able to curb some of this activity and the Town's left flank had a worrying time.

Shanks And Aherne Were Overworked

ALTHOUGH they stood up to the task manfully enough, Shanks and Aherne were over- worked, with the result that they were not so successful as usual.

Shanks covered a tremendous amount of ground, but his use of the ball was often faulty and he put it into the air too frequently.

Moore had a thin time in the middle and although lack of support had something to do with that, he did not find the open spaces as has been his want.

Mitchell had a patchy sort of game that was relieved by some bright interludes, but the fault of the whole forward line was that they lacked drive and and took too long to make progress.

Owen Won In Duels With Briggs

OWEN played so well that once again the Birmingham officials wondered how on earth they allowed him to leave them at a bargain price fee.

Out of his duels with Briggs, Owen came well on top and his grip on the centre-forward was one reason why Birmingham had to wait so long before they made this match safe.

The desperate nature of the game from the Birmingham view- point was underlined by the way in which the forwards were switched about.

Every member of the attack except Briggs, filled at least two positions during the course of the match.

Morton Is In Most Confident Mood

THERE was still work too from the consistent Morton, who is in remarkably confident

FOR THE RECORDS

BIRMINGHAM CITY ..	3
Purdon, Stewart, Briggs	
LUTON TOWN	1
Warhurst (own goal)	
BIRMINGHAM CITY.—	
Merrick; Green, Martin;	
Boyd, Ferris, Warhurst;	
Stewart, Smith, Briggs, Pur-	
don, Murphy.	
LUTON TOWN.—Streten;	
Jones, Aherne; Morton,	
Owen, Shanks; Cullen, Stob-	
bart, Moore, McJarrow,	
Mitchell.	
Referee. — W J Edwards,	
Yeovil	
Attendance.—29,000.	

form and he broke up a number of raids and contrived to use the ball to advantage.

Jones had quite a satisfactory match and looks likely to make a bid for a permanent place in the next season.

He still tends to be a little tarty in making his clearances, but he kicks well with either foot and is obviously a fine proposition for the future.

Spectacular Display By Streten

MAN who really caused the discussion afterwards was Streten for his spectacular display of goalkeeping which drew him round after round of applause.

His quickness enabled him to save shots which would have beaten many other goalkeepers and Stewart probably considers that he was cheated of a "hat trick" by Streten's brilliance, for two saves from the outside-right at point-blank range came into the "wonder" category.

Streten had much more to do than Merrick and he made the most of his opportunity.

Unlucky Ground For The Town

SO, once again, the Town left St. Andrew's defeated, and this is the only ground in the Second Division from which they have never taken a point.

From their point of view, it would be no bad thing if Birming- ham do accompany Sheffield Wed- nesday into the First Division, for nothing goes right for the Town when the teams meet, as Luton's record of one point from seven encounters shows.

On the whole, it was not a bad showing from a team weakened by injuries, and there might have been a different story had the attack been in more thrustful mood.

CHILTERN'S FORECASTS

F.A. CUP FINAL

Arsenal v Newcastle U

DIVISION I

Derby County v Chelsea

Stoke v Middlesbrough

DIVISION II

Cardiff C v Leeds

Luton T v Barnsley

Sheffield U v Q.P.R.

DIVISION III (SOUTH)

Colchester U v Watford

Crystal Palace v Northampton T

Gillingham v Bristol C

Norwich C v Swindon T

Reading v Bournemouth

Southend U v Newport C

Torquay v Ipswich T

DIVISION III (NORTH)

Bradford C v Gateshead

Darlington v Bradford

Grimsby T v Workington

Oldham Ath v Mansfield T

Southport v Chester

York City v Crewe Alex

GLASGOW CHARITY CUP

SEMI-FINALS

Celtic v Clyde

Rangers v Partick Thistle

OTHER MATCHES

Ayr U v Queen's Park

Hearts v Hibernian

Millwall v Raith Rovers

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30th

TOWN RESERVES

V.

IPSWICH RES.

KICK-OFF 6.30 p.m.

ADMISSION: Centre Stand 2/-

Stand & Enclosure 1/6 Boys 1/-

Ground (under cover) 1/3 Ground

(Mendworth Road) 1/- Boys 9d.

Reserves Blasted Norwich Hopes

RECENT performances by the Town Reserves, coupled with the fact that their choice was limited by first-team calls, did not suggest beforehand a 6-2 victory over Norwich City, who needed only one point from this match to go into the Combination Cup semi-finals.

By half-time their hopes of achieving that honour had been well and truly blasted by the fast Town forwards, ably led by the former Spennymoor player, Scott.

He was at centre-forward for the first time, but not for the last, judging by the success he attained in this match.

Two Each For Turner And Scott

SCOTT scored two goals, as did Turner, who was in the form that gained him a first-team place earlier in the season.

Wyldes and Taylor (A) got the others and the former was un- lucky that his haul was not a brace, for he hit the post with a tremendous shot and it was from the rebound that Taylor obtained his goal.

Not until 10 minutes from the end did Norwich reduce their 6-0 arrears and then they scored twice.

Hall was outstanding in a sound defence in which Cooke showed much of his old form and Thompson underlined his poten- tialities for the future.

Last Match Is Due To-morrow Night

TO-MORROW night, the Reserves complete their pro- gramme for the season when they receive Ipswich Town in the Combination Cup.

This was the match they should have staged on Saturday, but because of the situation at the top of the table, Norwich City were switched to Luton.

The Town will be without their Service players, Kelly, Bennett and Scott.

Town C.C. Start With A Win

CRICKET began locally on Saturday and Luton Town got off the mark with a win in a low-scoring match at Tring Park.

Five Luton players reached double figures in a total of 123 which was more than adequate, for against brilliant bowling by Ron Gardiner, who took 7 for 33 in 12 overs, Tring Park could muster only 58 in reply.

In an exciting finish at Wardown, the second team were beaten by one wicket and some great bowling by Doug. Randall nearly brought them victory after the team had been dismissed for 65.

Cricket In Brief

LUTON TOWN 123 (M L Kirby 19, J G Owen 18, T Brown 17), TRING PARK 58 (R Gardiner 7 for 33, J A R Oliver 2 for 9).

LUTON TOWN II 65 (F. W. J. Webb 19, A. H. Borrowman 15; D. Westcott 5 for 24), TRING PARK II 66 (G. K. Shallock 19, T. Malpass 12; D. S. Randall 8 for 30).

J. A. R. OLIVER'S XI 179 for 6 dec (J. A. R. Oliver 67 not out, W. Hammond 54; P. Panter 3 for 46), KEENS, SHAY, KEENS 44 (G. L. B. August 9; T. Matthews 3 for 14, R. D. Gardiner 2 for 5, J. A. R. Oliver 2 for 7).

VAUXHALL MOTORS 118 for 9 dec (R Lloyd 48, P Waller 25), WATFORD TOWN 70 (R Lloyd 3 for 6, H Hayhurst 3 for 12, A Heymeson 2 for 23).

VAUXHALL MOTORS SUN- DAY XI 74 (K Tate 21; G Turner 6 for 23; P Thurlow 2 for 3), LUTON CORINTHIANS 66 (G Turner 15 not out; M Ralph 5 for 23, A Heymeson 5 for 34).

LEAGRAVE 67 (R Margerison 15; A Eyles 6 for 20, J Boswell 4 for 16), DUNSTABLE TOWN II 55 (J Godfrey 19, A Evans 7 for 33, S Smith 2 for 14).

PERCIVAL 72 (D Franklin 19), MELTIS 37 (K Nawton 6 for 14, A McBrearty 2 for 1).

Fast Times In Ayfive Race

I. Odey, of Chelsea, won the second annual 62 miles' cycle road race organised by the Ayfive Racing Club, Dunstable, on Sun- day.

Starting point was in West street, Dunstable, and the finish was at the top of Dunstable Downs.

Odey's time was 2hrs. 46mins 30secs. Other placings were: 2, D. Chalker, High Wycombe; 3, J. Parker, Oxford; 4, V. Shaw, High Wycombe; 5, G. Finch, West London.

The first local rider was John Rowlands, of Luton, who was eighth.

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